



Real Estate Monthly Pulse

KPMG in Qatar

February 2020



Welcome to the latest issue of KPMG in Qatar's Real Estate Monthly Pulse, which brings you the news highlights from the real estate and related sectors in Qatar. We hope you find this information valuable. If you have any queries or would like to discuss the newsletter, business or the market, kindly contact us.

Real estate

— [Barwa Real Estate ranked 6th among top 50 listed property firms in Mideast](#)

Barwa Real Estate Group ranked 6th in the 2019 top 50 listed property companies in the Middle East, according to a report published by Forbes Middle East magazine. The ranking featured the top 50 companies listed on the region's stock exchange, ranked by market value as of October 2, 2019.

Barwa Real Estate deputy chairman & managing director Issa Mohamed al-Mohannadi said, "Barwa Real Estate is one of the largest Qatari companies in the field of real estate development. The diverse investments which Barwa carries out to fulfil the needs of the local market is the key for its success."

— [No modification of villas without permission: Ministry](#)

Ministry of Municipality and Environment warned of legal action against residents making modifications to villas without permission. The ministry noted that making modifications on villas without obtaining the necessary licenses and approvals may expose the owner to legal liability in accordance with the applicable laws. The first article of Law No. (4) of 1985 regarding the organization of buildings and its amendments, stipulates that it is not permissible to construct a building or establish a business or expand or extend it or support or maintain it or change the features of any real estate except after obtaining a license to do so from the competent municipality.

— [Msheireb Station awarded green building certifications](#)

Msheireb Station has been awarded two prestigious green building certifications: LEED Gold and GSAS 5 stars. Msheireb Station was awarded these sustainability certificates for implementing strategies in: sustainable site

For any enquiries, please contact:



Venkat Krishnaswamy
Partner, Advisory
kvenkatesh@kpmg.com
Tel : +974 4457 6541
Mob: +974 5554 1024



Anurag Gupta
Director, Advisory
aagupta@kpmg.com
Tel : +974 4457 6438
Mob: +974 3354 4317

development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, cultural and economic value and innovation in design, according to Consolidated Contractors Company.

— **MME upgrades electronic system for issuance of building permits**

Simplifying the procedures further to save time and efforts of service users, the Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME) has upgraded electronic system for the issuance of building permits, certificates of completion of construction of building among other services.

The new amendments come into effect from February 1, 2020 and have merged the procedures of obtaining permit for placing board at construction sites with the building permit in a single application, said the Ministry of Municipality and Environment in a statement.

Tourism and Hospitality

— **Hilton Doha The Pearl Residences opens**

One of Qatar's most highly anticipated and sought-after residential facilities — the contemporary designed Hilton Doha The Pearl Residences - was officially opened in January 2020.

Owned by Kuwaiti-backed First Qatar Real Estate Development Company, the property is the largest Hilton in Qatar and the company's first serviced residence in the country.

— **16 floating hotels to accommodate Qatar World Cup 2022 fans**

Qetaifan Projects, a company owned by Katara Hospitality, signed a memorandum of understanding with ADMARES Construction and Trading to construct and operate 16 floating hotels on the shores of Qetaifan Island North to provide accommodation for the fans within the fan villages during the FIFA World Cup 2022.

The hotels have a unique design; 72-meter-long and 16-meter-wide, each consisting of 101 guest rooms, a restaurant, and a lounge bar. All the 16 four-story hotels will be identical, offering a total of 1616 floating hotel rooms.

— **Hamad International Airport serves 1 million passengers in first week of January**

Hamad International Airport (HIA) served a record high influx of passengers during the winter holidays peak period, handling one million passengers in the first week of January 2020, marking the average of 138,649 passengers in a 24 hour period.

It is the highest number of passengers handling in a single day, while maintaining its high standards of passenger experience and operational excellence.

— **Doha Port breaks record on single day passenger arrival**

Improving its own record, two mega luxury cruise ships, Jewel of the Seas and Costa Diadema, brought nearly 10,000 passengers at Doha port. It is the highest number of passengers disembarking on a single day at Doha Port.

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